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Brawley, Benjamin Griffith.

Report

to

The New York State Colonization Society
on

Liberia College.

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Benjamin G. Brawley:

Born in Columbia, S.C. in 1882, A.B. Atlanta Baptist college (now Morehouse College) 1901, A.B. Univ. of Chicago 1906, A.M. Harvard University 1908. He has been instructor and professor at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia, and professor of English at Howard University, Washington, D.C. Since 1912 he has been Dean of Morehouse College. In January 1920 one of the Colonization Societies sent him to Liberia for a year to build up the College and make suggestions about the educational system for the country. He remained two months and then returned. The report was submitted to the society which se sent him out. His wife accompanied him. He is president of the Assn. of Negro Colleges, and he has published a number of books and some poems of merit. He is held by all as a man of fine intellectual ability and he belongs to neither radical or conservative party among the Negroes of the U.S., but inclines to the conservatives both in his deeds and utterances.

Eda A. Tourtellot

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New York,N.Y.,
May 15,1920.

Dr. E.C.Sage,President,
New York State Colonization Society,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Sage:-

Permit me to render report of my service as a teacher in the Liberia College.

Itinerary

In the fall of 1919 I accepted the appointment to go to Liberia under the auspices of the New York State Colonization Society, which was working in cooperation with the American Colonization Society in Washington, and the Board of Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia, in Boston, it being understood that Mrs. Brawley was to accompany me. Traveling to Africa, especially by way of Europe, has for some months past been very uncertain and subject to great delays. We, however, tried to improve every opportunity to reach our destination quickly, and we have reasons to consider ourselves fortunate. We left New York January 30,1920; arrived at Liverpool February 8; left for Sierra Leone on February 13; arrived in Freetown February 23; and remaining in Freetown only one day, we arrived in Monrovia Wednesday, February 25.

It was understood that we were to be in Africa for the better part of a year. Our health declined very rapidly, however; so that near the end of April a physician warned us that if we

wished to avoid serious and perhaps prolonged illness, it would be advisable for us not to remain indefinitely. Matters were not made better by the general conditions under which we were forced to live in Monrovia, and at length it seemed wisest to return home as soon as possible. We happily found that an American vessel was coming straight from Monrovia to New York by way of St. Thomas: we left April 19, and arrived in America May 14.

Monrovia

Before I can make any constructive suggestions with reference to Liberia, it is necessary for me to try to set forth something of the present condition of the country. In doing this I shall from time to time have to refer to the history of Liberia. I trust that you will bear with me in this; I shall try not to be tedious.

I doubt if there is in the world today a country in more critical condition than Liberia. It is not enough that the Republic has survived many difficult years in its history. In the present year its very existence is at stake, Liberia is today in a dilema - at the very parting of the ways.

Geographically, of course, the Republuc is strategically situated, being at the very bend of the continent by which all ships going further down the West Coast must pass. Monrovia itself, however, is hardly fortunately situated; and the Legislature, I understand, has already passed favorably upon a bill for the removal of the capital to some point in the interior. which action was considered even before the bombardment by a

German submarine April 10,1918. The town is on a rocky cape and could not possibly find it otherwise than exceedingly difficult to develop any ordinary civic improvements. The water-front is on the north side of the cape, and the principal streets, in number only five or six, run from east to west. At the western end, of course, is the very peak of the cape; and if one will walk from the water-front through the town to the south side of the cape - a distance of hardly more than a mile and a half - he will come to Long Beach, and on one side he will see the residence of the British Consul, and on the other, the barracks of the Liberian frontier force. Off the northern side of Cape Mesurado, running from the very point, is the well-known bar beyond which no large vessels can pass. If ever Monrovia is to have commerce on a large scale, the logical thing would seem to be to build a pier right out from the point of the cape. The present custom-house is within the bay, and whenever a ship comes to the town, surfboats have to ply back and forth around the bar from the vessel to the custom-house.

By the water's edge, with buildings on it that in the rear almost touch the water, is Water Street. This runs for not more than five blocks until at the western end it runs into Krutown, a native suburb, the heart of which, however, is not more than six blocks from the President's residence. On Water Street are the custom-house, the postoffice, most of the stores, and the market-place. On this street, moreover, one comes constantly

in contact with a motley throng and with many of the gravest social problems in Monrovia. Natives seem to predominate, and the general environment is by no means healthy. It is not primarily the natives,however, but the lack of sanitation and the general contact of the town with a certain sort of civilization that have served to make Water Street a place of unseemly odors and disease. Ascending a steep hill, one comes to Front Street, parallel to Water Stree, toward the eastern end of which is the branch of the Bank of British West Africa. Close to this is Faulkner's Hotel, and the rest of the street contains residences. These stretch away to the very point of the cape and to the home of the old German cable. The whole street is very rough and rocky throughout. Next to it is Ashmun Street, in appearance and for official purposes the chief street of the town. At the eastern end is the residence of Mr. H. F. Worley, the American General Receiver of Customs; two doors nearer is the residence of Colonel Young; two doors still nearer, on a corner, is the American Legation; and after this, within three blocks, one comes to the building of the Interior Department, the College of West Africa, the Methodist Church, and the Executive Mansion. On the next street, Broad Street, are the House of Representatives, the Baptist Church, the A.M.E. Church, and the Episcopal Church. The House of Representatives is a rough, three-story building that, across an empty space, a sort of square, faces the Interior Department. The first floor is devoted to the work of the Treasury Department.

The second is the main hall of the House of Representatives, and here, in the one large room and on the balconies adjoining, with such chairs as were available and with such desks as we could improvise, we have recently been helping with the work of the Liberia College. Beyond Broad Street there are no real streets, and the houses gradually become fewer and farther apart. In the distance, however, southwest from the Episcopal Church, looms the old structure of the Liberia College, a three-story building that is on a commanding summit of rock, but that can be reached only over a most forbidding rocky path, and that is now entirely out of repair.

Population

This description of Monrovia is a little detailed, but it seems to me that the topography of the town cannot be overlooked in the consideration of any business, hygienic, or educational question. The total population is about 7,000, about one-third of this number living in Krutown. Of white residences - merchants, government representatives, etc. - there must now be nearly a hundred. A question of overwhelming importance in Monrovia, as in all Liberia, is that of the relation of the Americo-Liberians to the natives. The civilized population of Liberia is variously stated at figures between 30,000 and 100,000, and the native population is estimated at 2,000,000. Let us keep in mind that the whole country is only slightly larger than our own state of Ohio. Of the civilized population, the smaller figure, 30,000, is

the more nearly correct if we consider only those people who are fully civilized, and this number would be about evenly divided between Americo-Liberians and natives. In the towns along the coast, however, there are many people who have received only some degree of civilization, and most of the households in the larger towns have several native children living in them. If all such elements are considered, the total might approach 100,000. It takes only a casual observer to see that in comparison with the natives the Americo-Liberian population is doomed. This latter element has not become more sturdy within the last few decades, and when roads are opened up and the children in the interior have had a better chance at education, it will by no means be able to hold its own against the more virile native elements.

Just here it is well to call attention to the unusually difficult task before the Liberian Government. If every official were absolutely fearless in his integrity and had the benefit of the ripest training for his work, it could still be seen that the government and education and general uplift of a native popluation representing more than a score of tribes all make up a task that could easily daunt an administration much stronger than that of the Republic of Liberia. Let us remember also that the civilized minority has almost from the beginning of the country's history been so constantly harassed by England and France that it has by no means been able to devote the full quota of its energy to its domestic concerns, and we shall see that it is absolutely

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necessary to have considerable sympathy in any final opinion we may form with reference to the country.

Characteristics of the Liberian People.

It is necessary to keep in mind also, however, certain characteristics which the Liberians themselves have consciously or unconsciously cultivated. The temper of the people is a combination of conservatism, aloofness, and self-satisfaction. They have departed little from the ideals that actuated the settlers a hundred years ago. These ideals included much church-going and a Puritanical observance of the Sabbath; but they knew nothing of the broad social and economic outlook that the western world has cultivated within the last half-century. Shut up within their little world, with little opportunity for culture, with only occasionally issued newspapers or other means of contact with the great world without, the people have made comparatively little progress in the modern sense. As the fathers had escaped from servitude moreover, it was not unnatural that in some measure they should learn to despise work or to feel that anything like manual labor should be performed by the natives rather than by themselves. Moved by the ideals of the Old South, the civilization from which they had largely escaped, they felt that gentlemen should govern and perhaps engage in trade, but that burdens should be borne by others. In school or college catalogues one still sees much of Jurisprudence and Mental and Moral Philosophy, but little of Physics or Biology; and almost every ambitious boy in the country wants to be lawyer. Interestingly enough, this

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with the great world without, the people have made comparatively
little progress in the modern sense. In the Hinterland natives
live practically unchanged, in one generation, from
their ancestors. Many of the girls, the adolescent
from which they had barely escaped, they felt that Confucian
Ancestor worship could be replaced by the national religion
themselves. Moved by the ideals of the Old South, the aristocratic
could learn to despise work or to feel that anything like
be done by others. In general it seemed impossible
many years of Christianity and contact with the world, but
little of Liberia is native; and almost every institution
the country makes it is unique. Characteristic among

whole system of education and life has not been without some elements of genuine culture. The literature has been mainly that in the diction of Shakespeare and Milton; but Shakespeare and Milton are not bad models, and because the officials have had to compose many state documents and deliver many formal addresses, there has been developed in the country a tradition of good English speech. I was interested to see that boys and even girls of first year high school grade could quote numerous poems and talk intelligently about several political documents. On the other hand, in the stress of modern commercialism, the Liberians have found it more and more difficult to maintain themselves. At the coast are profiteering merchants; in the interior are the natives who feel less and less disposed to bring their produce to the towns and sell it cheaply; and between the two millstones the people have gradually become sordid and even grasping. Frequently they seem more concerned about defeating one in the technicalities of the law than in delivering thoroughly satisfactory service.

Political Situation

We thus arrive at the political situation at the present time. The commonest phrase heard in Liberia today is "If the loan goes through". Everthing, in fact, seems to depend upon the $5,000,000 loan from the United States, negotiaitions for which were begun in 1918. This loan, however, is really the fourth loan of which we hear in the course of Liberia's history; it is

intimately connected with its predesessors; and it is also connected with other large topics of international policy. The arrogant encroachment of England upon Liberian territory and the efforts of France to equal her rival in aggrandisement all make up what is now an old story. Similarly well known is the story of Great Britain's efforts in 1908 and 1909, on various pretexts of "reform", to get entire charge of the administration of the country. Between these two things, largely the result of the one and the cause of the other, are the notorious loans of 1871 and 1906 negotiated with representative Englishmen. As one result of the visit of,our American Commission in 1909, there was a new loan of $1,700,000 approved before the end of 1911. For this loan the United States took chief responsibility, and an American "General Receiver of Customs and Financial Adviser to the Republic of Liberia" now opened his office in Monrovia. Outstanding obligations were to be paid at once. It was soon evident, however, that for any genuine development of the country much more money was needed; and this arose in 1918 the proposition for a new loan, one of $5,000,000. Among the things proposed are improvements on the harbor of Monrovia, some good roads through the country, a hospital, and $100,000 to be spent on public education, with an extra $50,000 for Liberia College. The interesting thing about the whole matter is that while perhaps as many as fifteen American officials have come out to the country to begin work, the necessary measures of approval have not yet been passed by the Liberian

Congress, and nobody knows when they will be passed. It is hardly likely that the Representatives will be summoned in special session during the summer; they will not regularly meet until early next winter; and in general it seems that there is much doubt that the loan will "go through" at all. It is difficult to get any full and authoritative statement of the provisions attached to this loan. Two main facts, however, are outstanding: first, the representative American officials are not going to permit any money to be spent that cannot be fully accounted for; and second, to the Liberians the loan would seem in large measure to entail a loss of sovereignty, as it would place American appointees in most of the important positions in the state. In addition to seeing these appointees in responsible positions with high salaries attached, the Liberians realise that their country would have to be responsible for the interest on the loan from year to year; and not only does the Congress seem in no haste about approving, but among the people at large there seems to be little enthusiasm. Meanwhile England and France are watchfully waiting. If the loan is not accepted, it would seem necessary for the United States generally to withdraw from Liberian affairs, and once more the Republic would be at the mercy of her two arch-enemies. It will thus be seen that in the present year, exactly one hundred years after the first shipment of settlers by the American Colonization Society, Liberia is facing political problems of the very first magnitude.

Economic Situation

From what has been said, it can easily be seen that the economic situation in Liberia leaves much to be desired. The country has not yet produced men of bread training in business principles. There is some genuine beginning in cooperative effort; thus the Bassa Trading Association is an organization for general betterment of perhaps as many as fifty responsible merchants. In general, however, solid economic advance is yet to be made. In Liberia there are no railroads, no street cars, no watermains, no theatres, no public schools, and no genuine newspapers. In the country there is a little agriculture; but in the towns there are no productive industries, and hence no employment on a large scale for ambitious young men. Many of these young men make their way to America to be educated, and most frequently they do not return. In the towns at home a few become clerks in the stores, and a very few become assistants in the customs. Not unnaturally the most aggressive look toward political life. The agricultural products raised in the interior are hardly sufficient for home consumption, and if they were more, there has yet been developped no means for getting produce to market on a large scale. Foreigners by their residence put a little money in circulation; and in 1919 the total customs revenue at Monrovia, the largest port, amounted to $196,913.21. Out of the customs dues the frontier force must be paid. The annual income of the city of Monrovia within the last few years has averaged $6,000, out of which sum the police and all other city officers must be paid. In general, it is

difficult to see on what solid economic basis the country rests.

Social Condition

The social condition of the people of Liberia may be considered from many standpoints. In the present report I invite attention especially to (1) Health, and (2) Education. It is difficult to separate educational from religious activity altogether, as so much of the vital work that is now being done is under the auspices of the different denominational boards.

Health

In connection with health one naturally thinks first of the tropical climate. This is for any newcomer a serious problem, and yet for many people by no means the greatest that is incident to life in Liberia. The humidity is intense, and, in the dry season especially, the air is most oppressive; but on the present occasion I am inclined to emphasize three other points which ordinarily do not receive as much consideration as is given to climate.

In the first place there are the ills incident to the food shortage. One who lives in America and knows that Africa is a land of unbounded riches can hardly understand the suffering that is just now being experienced on the West Coast of Africa. From time immemorial this has been that part of the continent which has been most exploited, and in one way or another it still has reason to grieve. The distress is acute in the English

colonies, and as Liberia is so close to Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast, much of the same condition prevails there. It is hard for tthe people in Freetown to get even such a simple vegetable as cassava. In Monrovia the only bank is the branch of the Bank of British West Africa. In all the other branches of this great bank along the coast gold long ago disappeared, silver has all but vanished, and the common form of currency is paper notes, issued even in one-shilling notes, which the native Africans refuse to accept. The natives go even further. Rather than bring their produce to the towns and receive paper for it, they will not come at all. In Monrovia an effort was made to introduce the British West African paper currency; and while this failed, something of present tendencies may be seen f om the fact that more and more the nerchants insist on being paid in silver. The bank will give to any one person only a limited amount of silver, and the merchants prefer not to accept even the English ten-shilling or one-pound note. All the while profiteering goes on apace. The common man feels the situation when he is forced to pay exorbitant prices for food and even then cannot always get his change. Very recently butter has been selling at $1.25 a pound, sugar 72 cents a pound, oil $1 a gallon, eggs 12 cents apiece, and ice 10 cents a pound. The present crisis was paralleled only by that of last summer when, as the new President said in his inaugural address, starvation stared the people in the face. President King has recently endeavored by proclomation to fix some limit to the high

prices; but in Liberia, as in many other countries and in other ages, such proclomations are ineffective. The result is that in Monrovia and in other coast towns the people show at a glance that they are not properly nourished. The infant mortality, especially in Krutown, is frightful; boys in their teens are frequently thin and bloodless and weak; and I have seen children lying against the walls on Water Street slowly wasting away with starvation and disease. I had seen pictures of such suffering, in India and China, but I had never come face to face with the reality until I saw it in Monrovia. One very common result of a poorly arranged diet and of the disproportionate use of salt foods, is the sores that one so commonly sees on the legs of school children. It will be seen, however, that other causes also might account for these sores.

A second matter, closely related to the food shortage is the lack of water and of hygienic facilities generally. In the latter part of the dry season, Monrovia is sometimes almost completely without water. The rocky streets moreover have so far forbidden the laying of any waterpipes or sewers. As there are no bathrooms or toilets in the American sense, in the rear of the houses, are outhouses, commonly in unspeakable condition. The odors and germs from these places, I am sure, do almost as much to spread fever as the humid climate itself.

Anyone who uses these outhouses is likely to run into still other dangers; and this brings me to the third topic

having to do with health, the prevalence of venereal disease. This is not a pleasant subject, but it is one that may as well be frankly faced by anyone who is really interested in Liberia. Any physician who looks into the matter will inform you that syphillis and kindred diseases prevail to an extent even beyond that of most places on the African coast. The natives are not primarily to blame for this; to a surprising degree, many of the tribes believe in personal cleanliness. The vices are most widespread in the floating population along the coast, and they are hardly made better by the social conditions existing in the towns.

All of these things, of course, work together in a circle. It is hard to tell just when poor food or veneral disease is the more to blame for emaciation. There is also undoubtedly considerable leprosy in Liberia; but this is a terrible word, and one seldom used. I am quite sure, however, that an examination would show several lepers wandering about the streets in the towns. Then there is erysipelas with its frightful ulcers, though great sores are sometimes caused by the bites of insects. I have also heard of the guinea-worm.

One thing especially that impressed me was the alarming protrusion of the abdomen in the many young men. I have sometimes seen people smile at this, as if the little fellows had simply eaten too much. I am sure, however, that this is not the fundamental cause. The condition is chronic; it is due to

having to do with health, the prevalence of venereal diseases. This is not a pleasant subject, but it is one that may as well be frankly faced by anyone who is really interested in lifestyle. Any physician who looks into the matter will inform you that capability and kindred diseases prevail to an extent even beyond that of most places on the African coast. The natives are not [illegible] in personal cleanliness. [illegible] phase in the flowing [illegible] word, and one seldom need. All of these things, of course, work together in a circle. It is hard to tell just when poor food or venereal disease is the more to blame for emaciation. There is also mal-

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some serious intestinal trouble; and I have professional authority to support me in this opinion.

Let us remember in this connection that there are no hospitals in Liberia. From time to time the Episcopalian or the other missionary activities have attempted to do something to alleviate the suffering of the people. There is at present in Monrovia, however, no place to which a person in need of an operation or of other special attention might be taken. The Government has talked about such a place; it is understood that some provision for it is to be made out of the proposed $5,000,000 loan; and I have even heard that a physician has been appointed. As affecting the everyday life of the people just now, however, all these things are as distant and as uncertain as the future itself; and meanwhile the mortality rate continues at its great height undiminished and unashamed.

Education

It is well known that the Liberians are an exceedingly religious people in the sense that they have many churches, that they have much sincere and laudable regard for the Sabbath, and that they still preserve something of the fervor and faith that went into the founding of their country. They are also fond of their societies and lodges, of parades, and of any gathering in fact of a religious or official character. These things are well known and may here be passed by for emphasis on the exact state of education in the country at the present time.

cation in the country at the present time.

In general the importance of education is not appreciated in the Republic. The profession of the teacher is accordingly not one held in high esteem. Some years ago, when there was a little effort toward public school education, a teacher with a first grade license received $200 for a term of eight months, one with a second grade $175, and one with a third grade $150. The profession became a side issue, and most of those who went into it cultivated some other and more important interest. Naturally on many days they did not get to school at all. Now, However, even this semblance of education seems to have vanished, and whatever is done is done by the missionary institutions. Foremost have been the Methodists, the Episcopalians, and the Lutherans, though the Baptists, the Presbyterians, and the A. M. E. Church have also made a beginning. The Episcopalians especially are just now planning aggressive work, and among their helpers who have recently come out to the country is Mr. Robinson, a ypung man from Cornell University who is an agricultural expert. The following figures are as acurate as I have been able to make them. The Methodists have slightly more than 30 schools, with 65 teachers and 2500 pupils. The Episcopalians have a little more than 40 schools, nearly half of these being boarding schools, with a total attendance of 2000. The Lutherans have in their five different stations 20 American workers and 300 pupils. While from these figures it might seem that the number of those reached is small in proportion to the outlay, it must be remembered that a mission station with its school becomes a center from which

influence radiates in all directions.

The total number of children in all the schools of every sort is now not more than 10,000. When the number in the public schools reached the highest point, in 1913, the enrollment was 2,632. Let us remember that the total of 10,000 children is drawn from a population of 2,000,000, in the Republic, and even if we suppose that the schools now open could bear an increase to their enrollment of 100 per cent., we can see that at the most liberal estimate school facilities are hardly provided for as much as 10 per cent. of the children of Liberia; and these facilities are wholly missionary. The Department of Public Instruction was indeed not created until 1900, and when it began its work the missions were already well established. And yet the schools of the latter are not always satisfactory. Standards are frequently low, and attendance is very irregular. Textbooks are often beyond the real power of the students. Only here and there has a beginning in industrial education been made. The Lutherans have some carpentry, tailoring, and shoe-making, and the Episcopalians and the Methodists (as in the College of West Africa) have realized the need of similar training; but much yet remains to be done.

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of its children, they are not unduly cultivating a spirit of dependence rather than of self-help. Something of this point of view was emphasized by the present Secretary of Public Instruction, Mr. Walter F. Walker, in an address, "Liberia and her Educational Problems", delivered in Chicago in 1916. Said he: "These day schools did invaluable service in the days of the Colony and Commonwealth, and , indeed, in the early days of the Republic; but to their continuation must undoubtedly be ascribed the tardy recognition by the government and people of the fact that no agency for the education of the masses is as effective as the public school ..... In preserving these schools in the civilized communities and incorporated towns and cities, the churches have carried charity to the point where it has resolved itself into harm, for they formed no source of burden upon the people nor upon the treasury of the government, and, until quite recently, books were furnished free of charge to pupils..... There is not one public school building owned by the government or by any city or township." Any appropriation for education that is now made seems sufficient only for the payment of one or two salaries. I understand that this year the appropriation for the Liberia College is $2,000.

Whatever may be the name of an institution, there is in Liberia no one that is doing genuine college work. The Methodist school in Monrovia, the College of West Africa, is only

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a low grade high school. Some years ago, when Bishop Camphor was president, the school attempted work of more truly collegiate quality; and the Stokes Theological School in affiliation with it even now has good possibilities. The Liberia College is intended to be the summit of the regular educational system. This institution, however, as that to which I was accredited, calls for special comment.

Liberia College

About half a mile from the heart of Monrovia, over a read which, as I have said, is very rugged, is the building of the Liberia College. The structure is one of three stories, with rather strong foundation and supports; but the woodwork both on the inside and the outside has largely rotted away, and generally the building presents an appearance of dilapidation. From time to time, as you know, the College has sent out graduates, but for the last few years its work ha: been suspended, except in what is known as the Preparatory Department. This Preparatory Department was hardly more than a little grade school; but while President Cassell was away in America last year, the work seems to have been heroically and unselfishly carried on by two teachers, Prof. T. W. Haynes and Mrs. M. M. Parker, though the home of the school was uncertain, for the old college building long ago became uninhabitable. This year, on sufferance, as the government felt some responsibility for the institution, the school work has been conducted in the assembly room of the House of Representatives.

Liberia College

About half a mile from the heart of Monrovia, over a road mainly, as a late rain, is very rough, in the vicinity of the Liberia College. The structure is one of three stories, rather strong foundation and supports; but the woodwork both on the inside, and the outside has largely rotten away, and generally the building presents an appearance of dilapidation. From time to time, as I have been, the College has been suspended, except in what the last few years its work has been suspended, except in what

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[illegible]

able.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

The total enrollment has been 125, though the average attendance has been hardly more than 80. Of this number, 3 young men are supposedly of college grade; 9 have been classified in the Second Year of the Normal (the high school) Course; 3 in the first year Normal; 5 in the seventh grade (in the highest grade below the high school work,) and, as there is no sixth grade, the rest of the school, 105 out of 125, is classified in grades from the first to the fifth. The three First Year Normal students should really be called eighth grade pupils; the nine in the Second Year are of not more than First Year quality; and the work of the three college men has been very irregular. Aside from Mr. Haynes and Mrs. Parker, who with one pther young assistant, Miss Davis, have been conducting the grade work, and in addition to Mrs. Brawley and myself, it was expected that President Cassell would have for his higher work one other assistant, who was to be appointed by the Liberian Board of Trustees. The man first appointed came only occasionally; but it was six weeks before the president could have a second man officially chosen. This second man is Rev. T. E. Ward, a native of the Gold Coast who spent six years as a student in the United States and who is now the pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Monrovia. He has begun work and bids fair to render excellent service. It may now be clear why I say that the work of the three college students is irregular. On account of their outside duties the men could come at only one period in the course of the school

day, and as two of their classes were assigned to Mr. Ward (or the man whose place he filled), they did not begin for six weeks after the opening on March 1, and then they were to come specially late in the afternoon. It might be added that a member of the French consulate kindly gave his services for two hours a week.

The tuition fee has ranged from 25 cents a month for the lowest grades to $1 for the college work. In general the curriculum, so far as it goes, is a little too ambitious, and of course anything attempted in Science is purely theoretical, as there is not a semblance of a laboratory or of a library. The Second Year Normal Class, for instance, has a program of work as follows:

English	5 hours weekly
Latin	5
History	5
Algebra	3
Hygiene	3
French	2
Science	2

My own schedule was as follows:

Hour	Class	Number of Students
9	Second Year Algebra (M W F)	9
10	First Year Arithmetic	3(very irregular)
11	College English	5
1	First Year English	3
2	Second Year English	9

My own schedule was as follows:

Hour	Class	Number of Students
9	Second Year Algebra (M W F)	9
10	First Year Arithmetic	35(very irregular)
11	College English	5
1	[illegible]	3
2	Second Year English	9

Mrs. Brawley's schedule was as follows:

Hour	Class	Number of Students
10	Fifth Grade Spelling	19
10:30	Fifth Grade Reading	19
11	Hygiene(First and Second Years)	12

In general the Liberian children need discipline. They have had little rigorous training, but with firm handlingh they can do good work. They are ambitious and have considerable pride in their country; and I can never forget the thrill with which I first heard them sing their national anthem. A queer development of their singing, however, is a very high, sharp, and nasal tone that one observes not only in the schools but in all the churches. The boys and girls need training not only along this line, but also in physical culture. Under the very best conditions they are in danger of becoming too serious-minded, and wholesome outdoor games could be cultivated to advantage. At present also in the evening the boys have no place to which they might go for wholesome recreation. The Y.M.C.A. is just making a beginning of its work, and so far its activity has been devoted for the most part to a rather formal address on Sunday afternoon. It is planning, however, some work of social betterment on a broader scale.

General Observations

I have thus attempted to pass in review the presant political, economic, and social condition of the Liberian people.

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broader basis.

General Discussion

I have tried attempted to give to you the impression
of Siberian, especially, and rural conditions of the Siberian people.

Before I make any specific recommendations, permit me to make a few general observations:

1. There is just now unqualified distress on the part of many peole in Liberia. I know that certain reforms are planned if the proposed loan for the United States is officially accpted: but even now there is much suffering, especially from the very great shortage of food.

2. In general, Liberia needs standards - standards of living and of eduation alike. One thoroughly equipped modern hospital and one single high school or college buidling on the American plan, with full scientific apparatus, would do much to braaden the ideas of the people.

3. Any aid given for any purpose should be adequately protected to avoid waste or loan; for instance, if ever a building is to be erected, throughout its construction it should have such oversight as the society might think best.

4. Any aid given at any time should consider not only the Americo-Liberians, but the native population as well. After all, the America-Liberians are in number altogether not more than the Negro population of such a small city as Petersburg, Virginia, and in course of time will certainly have to give way to native elements.

5. Monrovia and the interior of Liberia are not even now wholly without medical attention. In Monrovia Dr. Fusek, a great-hearted Austrian physician, is of unquestioned scholarship and ability.

few general observations:

1. There is just now unjustified distress on the part of many people in Liberia. I know that certain reforms are planned [illegible] the proposed loan for the rural areas is eventually completed [illegible] great shortage of food.

2. In general, Liberia needs standards of living and of education alike. One thoroughly equipped modern hospital and one single high school or college building on the American plan, with full scientific apparatus, would do much to broaden the ideas of the people.

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6. There are not to be found in Liberia people who are really qualified to teach in such an institution as the Liberia College ought to be. If there are such a few persons they are already engaged in lines more profitable than the profession of teaching. On the other hand, if teachers are sent form America to Liberia, they should be protected in every way as fully as possible and they should, of course, be made acquainted beforehand with the differences between actual living in Liberia and in America. Of course, only such teachwrs should be sent as have the absolute confidence of the Society.

7. As to the Liberia College, there is considerable difference of opinion. The old school building has gathered unto itself much tradition, and the Board of Trustees recently expressed itself as not in favor of Dr. Cassell's plan of a new building in a new place. President Cassell has had in mind a building for administration and recitation purposes that would become the center around which other buildings might be erected. The Trustees desire that any improvement be in the way of repairs on the old building. The matter is complicated by the fact that it has been officially proposed to remove the capital of Liberia to some point in the interior, though there are no immediate steps toward this end. I myself am forced to incline to the original plan of President Cassell. If the old building is capable of being thoroughly renovated and repaired - and such improvement could be made only at the cost of a new building - it would by reason of its location serve much better as a hospital than as a school.

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Recommendations

In view of what has been said, I make the following suggestions:

1. That in the city of Monrovia at least some effort be made to relieve the infant mortality. On this point I can arrive at nothing better than a little more use of charity, though I am, of course, well aware og the dangers to which charity leads. The need at present is urgent. One experienced missionary with whom I discussed the matter suggested a distributing station at which the mothers of infants might receive one or two dozen cans of evaporated milk, or to which undernourished children might generally be brought for attention and aid. If the Society thinks well of the idea, it would, of course, need to consider the actual method of distribution, as the whole purpose of the plan would be defeated if there were profiteering or waste. The ideal thing would be to have a physician and a nurse working together. If this is not possible, however, and if it is necessary to leave the matter in the hands of some one Liberian, I recommend Mr. C. L. Simpson, a capable and business-like young man who works in the custom-house in Monrovia.

2. That some effort be made toward the erection of a hospital, or a least that there be a free clinic and such equipment as would make possible a major operation. Note that this matter has already received consideration in connection with the proposed loan; and I am informed that in anticipation of the accepting of this loan some hospital supplies are already in

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2. That some effort be made toward the creation of a [illegible], or a fund that there by a five million [illegible] was would make possible a major operation. Note that this matter has already received consideration in connection with the proposed loan; and I am informed that in anticipation of the acceptance of this loan some hospital supplies are already in

Monrovia and that a physician is soon to come. In any case it would be well if there could be cooperation with Dr. Fusek, so that the great experience of this physician could be utilized.

3. That with reference to the public schools nothing be done immediately by the Society, but that consideration be given to the advisability of calling in conference the representatives of the different denominational boards now doing work in the mission schools, and that the future policy of all of these denominations be considered in its bearing upon the problem of the public school.

4. With reference to the Liberia College

a) That one hundred dollars be sent immediately and directly to Prof. T. W. Haynes and a similar amount to Mrs. M. M. Parker as a mark of appreciation of the work of these earnest and greatly underpaid workers, especially within the last two years.

b) That there be no large assistance for building or repairs until a definitely constructive program is presented by the Liberians themselves, but that for the time being consideration be given to the supplying of the most necessary library and laboratory equipment, at least for the elementary work now being conducted.

c) That the Society be very careful about expending money for the employment of Liberian teachers, as , with the rare exception of a man like Mr. Ward, these are not equipped for work beyond that of the grammar school; and that American teachers

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5. That with reference to the public schools nothing be done immediately by the Society, but that consideration be given by the Society to centralizing the responsibility of the different organized bodies now doing work in the primary schools, and that the future policy of all of them concentrate be considered in the working upon the problem of the public school.

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be sent only in case a definite desire to have them is evinced. In the latter case consideration might be given to the following: (1) A teacher of mathematics and high school science; (2) one of English, especially English composition; (3) one of domestic science and hygiene; and (4) one of singing and physical culture. Any such teachers should be employed with the definite understanding that for the time being they will for the most part have to do upper grammar school or lower high school work, as not for some years yet will the Liberia College be ready to use full college professors.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Benjamin Brawley.

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